

Education & Culture

Our Vision for Education and Culture is for Lakewood to enjoy the highest quality education and robust social cohesion for all. This includes a culture of lifelong learning and the preservation of our cultural institutions and assets. In addition, Lakewood will be a community of deep civic engagement where citizens, including members of under-represented communities, increasingly participate in civic and cultural events.

Success is a City of Lakewood that...

Building Connections:

- Captures and shares local history and celebrates the diversity of cultures among Lakewood residents
- Provides the highest-quality education for K-12 students through excellent schools
- Incorporates Lake Erie, the Metroparks, and other green spaces in community programming

Enhancing Existing Assets:

- Uses an understanding of market and social trends to guide City decision making
- Offers a broad range of community events and festivals
- Preserves and strengthens its cultural institutions
- Leverages existing resources in schools to meet community needs such as access to technology and community meeting spaces

Creating Places for People:

- Promotes cultural identity in neighborhoods through urban design that fosters social cohesion
- Accommodates coworking and live-work units in the Zoning Code
- Recognizes that preservation of historic structures is important for creating a sense of place

Striking a Balance:

- Leverages local and regional cultural assets to direct programming
- Partners with regional universities and community colleges to meet local needs in higher education and continuing education for lifelong learning
- Provides great facilities and learning environments that allow access to educational technology and resources including access to computers in schools and libraries

Thinking About Tomorrow:

- Ensures that children and adults are equipped with the skills necessary to lead in the economy of tomorrow
- Supports libraries as spaces for lifelong learning opportunities and access to technology for every age cohort

Community Wellness

Our Vision for Community Wellness is for Lakewood to provide great facilities, parks, green spaces and programs for active living and healthy lifestyles. We will advocate for the improved health of our citizens and encourage buildings and infrastructure which improve resiliency and wellness.

Success is a City of Lakewood that...

Building Connections:

- Connects residents to healthcare, social-emotional services, education, and health literacy
- Connects residents to information, the internet, and public services
- Has strong block clubs and other hyper-local connections which foster neighborhood social cohesion and safety

Enhancing Existing Assets:

- Abates lead hazards through education and assistance programs
- Makes investments in transportation which support the most vulnerable in our community
- Makes transportation decisions that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote wellness
- Ensures that all residents have access to healthy, affordable food
- Provides access to the lake for all residents

Creating Places for People:

- Provides public spaces that are open and inviting with access for all
- Expands public greenspace and makes it useful year-round
- Expands the urban tree canopy, especially on private property
- Supports the growing population of seniors and families with children through inter-generational programming

Striking a Balance:

- Balances support for urban agriculture with the realities of a densely populated city
- Promotes disease prevention and management through health policy
- Encourages thoughtful transit-oriented development where opportunities exist, while respecting the “City of Beautiful Homes”

Thinking about Tomorrow:

- Increases the recycling rate and compliance while reducing the prevalence of single-use plastics
- Educates residents on how to improve their homes for weather extremes
- Has an overall culture which promotes community health and wellness, respects diversity, and embraces environmental stewardship
- Protects Lake Erie and the Rocky River as vital sources of drinking water and recreation through storm and sanitary sewer improvements

Safety

Our Vision for Safety is for Lakewood to foster secure and confident residents and a well-protected business community. This includes low crime, safe streets for pedestrians and bicyclists, strengthened infrastructure, and well-trained safety forces. Robust digital security, enhanced community relations and design for safety in all public places are essential.

Success is a City of Lakewood that...

Building Connections:

- Designs capital investments for wellness and safety
- Provides simple, straightforward access to comprehensive and relevant public safety data
- Rapidly responds to neighborhood concerns

Enhancing Existing Assets:

- Has sufficient professional safety services with available resources
- Expands the network of public and private security cameras
- Provides safety forces with the tools and training to effectively engage with diverse residents, visitors, and businesses
- Maintains public spaces that are beautiful, functional, and safe for all

Creating Places for People:

- Incorporates resilient design into roads, parking lots, sidewalks, and all public infrastructure
- Raises awareness of best practices for crime prevention among individuals and block clubs
- Strengthens person-to-person connections between safety forces and residents

Striking a Balance:

- Ensures open and constructive communication between safety forces and residents
- Balances personal privacy with data-driven policing
- Monitors and updates local political groups regarding safety and security

Thinking about Tomorrow:

- Incorporates up to date technology into standard operating procedures for emergency forces
- Collects, records and uses citizen data in a safe and ethical manner
- Establishes a disaster mitigation plan and promotes awareness and understanding of it

Connectivity

Our Vision for Connectivity is for Lakewood to provide 21st Century quality infrastructure, public safety, parking, and information/social connectivity. Physical and social networks will serve all who live, work, play, and shop in Lakewood while at the same time serving the needs of the natural environment on which we all depend.

Success is a City of Lakewood that...

Building Connections:

- Establishes clear and intuitive rules of the road for all modes of transportation which are reinforced with signage, education, and enforcement
- Follows a streetscape master plan that incentivizes walking, biking and other connections between local businesses
- Lights all streets effectively with non-sleep-disrupting, energy-efficient street lights linked by smart technology

Enhancing Existing Assets:

- Develops and implements efficient sidewalk snow removal procedures
- Keeps streets free of litter and effectively manages waste in public spaces
- Expands the dedicated bicycle path network city-wide
- Improves and maintains the existing transportation infrastructure considering universal design, affordability, and environmental impact

Creating Places for People:

- Implements a streetscape master plan that includes beautiful and functional amenities
- Uses surface parking efficiently, minimizing its visual and functional impacts
- Employs universal design in the construction and renovation of public facilities
- Adopts a “vision zero” goal to reduce motor-vehicle related deaths to zero

Striking a Balance:

- Implements enhanced traffic patterns to reduce impact of idling of cars at schools and major destinations
- Implements traffic calming where necessary to limit speed and volume to levels appropriate for neighborhood conditions
- Works with GCRTA to improve the timing and reliability of transit service and access to transit facilities

Thinking about Tomorrow:

- Supports smart driving and ride share technologies
- Is prepared to accept autonomous and connected vehicle technology as it emerges
- Educates residents on ways to reduce their mobility carbon footprint
- Provides alternative options to fill gaps in traditional public transit service
- Employs smart technology to improve the efficiency of parking where necessary

Housing

Our Vision for Housing is for Lakewood to offer diverse housing types which meets the varied needs of our entire community. Moreover, we will keep Lakewood's housing affordable and well-maintained by proactively investing in programs and policies that sustain and improve our housing stock. Finally, we will develop a culture of informed and responsible action by owner-occupants, landlords, and tenants through education and seek opportunities for renters to develop roots.

Success is a City of Lakewood that...

Building Connections:

- Has an landlord community that is well-informed about property maintenance and opportunities for funding
- Has homeowners who recognize the importance and financial benefits of quality repairs and renovations
- Benefits from realtors who market effectively to prospective homeowners
- Is home to homeowners who undertake efficiency upgrades such as the installation of new high efficiency furnaces, adequate insulation, and Energy Star appliances

Enhancing Existing Assets:

- Increases awareness among residents about how to better access services and innovative mortgage products provided by local financial institutions
- Benefits from active and informed block clubs as a conduit for social and informational resources
- Provides incentives/subsidies for rehabilitation of structures using sustainable practices

Creating Places for People:

- Encourages development of a diverse housing stock that meets the needs of all residents including seniors, low/moderate income families, and special needs households
- Permits new and infill development which is complementary to the scale and character of surrounding residential uses, integrates sustainable practices, and reflects Universal Design principles
- Creates and maintains quality greenspace in each neighborhood

Striking a Balance:

- Uses point-of-sale inspections to ensure safe and well-maintained housing
- Encourages additional affordable housing for low/moderate income and special needs households
- Conducts proactive code enforcement of residential property including multi-family buildings

Thinking about Tomorrow:

- Increases tree canopy, particularly on residential streets
- Actively seeks and incentivizes high quality design while respecting the historic character of residential neighborhoods
- Ensures that abandoned and vacant properties are safe, secure, and weatherized
- Creates new funding sources to assist middle-class homeowners who may be ineligible for federally funded housing programs
- Reduces the burden on municipal stormwater through changes to residential properties especially adding tree canopy and updating downspout connections.

Economic Development

Our Vision for Economic Development includes wide prosperity and economic opportunity for all. This prosperity will be marked by fair wages and dignified employment. Our Vision supports locally owned business and entrepreneurship. It encourages high quality, sustainable and diverse mixed-use development in our commercial corridors and businesses that serve local needs.

Success is a City of Lakewood that...

Building Connections:

- Maintains sustained private reinvestment in commercial and residential property
- Promotes and facilitates sharing of information among businesses
- Offers business plan mentoring and support to all business owners
- Informs residents of commercial development news large and small

Enhancing Existing Assets:

- Repurposes or renovates obsolete and vacant retail spaces
- Supports Downtown Lakewood and other commercial districts via public/private partnerships
- Conducts proactive code enforcement
- Attracts high-quality development by being known as a high-quality, resilient city

Creating Places for People:

- Provides guidance to small business owners on architectural design and rehabilitations
- Designs and maintains commercial districts that are safe and inviting for pedestrians and cyclists
- Ensures that commercial buildings, where appropriate and possible, have a mix of uses
- Approves building designs which are compatible with the scale of our commercial districts
- Improves the streetscape with trees and other amenities

Striking a Balance:

- Adopts and maintains a Zoning Code that is nimble enough to address evolving markets and commercial opportunities
- Minimizes potential disruptive impacts of late-night commercial activity through design and enforcement

Thinking about Tomorrow:

- Preserves and respects historic context in commercial development projects
- Manages stormwater via best practices such as bio-swales, rain gardens, and pervious pavement where appropriate
- Promotes and incentivizes sustainable development practices such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste reduction, supply chain management, and composting
- Strengthens economic development efforts to increase commercial occupancy rates
- Plans for and addresses the impacts of new and emerging technology on local businesses